

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 161727Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8917

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAININGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USDOCOSOUTH

SHAPEUSNR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: SOCIALISTS ELECT CRAXI SECRETARY; CONFIRM FORMAL
POSITION FOR EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED BY PCI

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

SHAPEUSNR FOR POLAD

REF: ROME 11445

1. NEW DIRECTORATE, ELECTED LATE LAST NIGHT (JULY 15),
THIS MORNING ELECTED 42-YEAR-OLD BETTINO CRAXI SECRETARY
TO SUCCEED DEMARTINO. EIGHT OF THE 31 DIRECTORATE MEMBERS
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SHOWED THEIR OPPOSITION BY ABSTAINING. ALL BUT ONE, GIOLITTI,

BELONGS TO THE PARTY'S LEFT.

2. PRIOR TO ADJOURING LAST NIGHT, THE NEW DIRECTORATE HAD REFABRICATED ITS UNITARY FACADE BY UNANIMOUSLY VOTING A POLITICAL DOCUMENT. DRAFTED BY A COMMITTEE INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE EX-FACTIONS, THE DOCUMENT IS LITTLE MORE THAN RE-EDITION OF THE PSI'S CONGRESSIONAL AND CAMPAIGN PLATFORMS, INTRODUCED BY A BRIEF EVALUATION OF THE ELECTORAL RESULTS.

3. THE DC'S 1948-STYLE CAMPAIGN, BESIDES THE PSI'S AMBIGUITY AND ERRORS, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PSI'S DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE. THE DC'S SUCCESS IS HOWEVER EPHEMERAL SINCE IT CAME AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS ALLIES, AND LEAVES IT WITHOUT THE ALTERNATIVE OF A CENTER-RIGHT MAJORITY. THIS BOTH "CENTRALITY" AND DC HEGEMONY HAVE DISAPPEARED. THE PCI'S ADVANCE IS SOLID AND CONSISTENT. BUT IT SHOULD NEITHER GENERATE PRESUMPTIONS OF HEGEMONY WITHIN THE LEFT NOR INTERRUPT THE PROCESS OF RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO HISTORIC PARTIES OF THE WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT. PSI CAN ESTABLISH POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH SMALL LAY PARTIES ON CONDITION THEY DO NOT SUBMIT TO DC HEGEMONY. STRATEGIC GOAL OF ALTERNATIVE OF LEFT REAFFIRMED, BUT MAJORITY TO BE "PATIENTLY" CONSTRUCTED TO REALIZE IT NOT LIMITED TO MERE SUM OF LEFT, I.E., OPEN TO OTHER FORCES. NOW, IT IS "URGENT AND NECESSARY" TO FORM AN EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT, BASED ON CONSENT OF ENTIRE POLITICAL LEFT AND UNIONS, EXCLUDING ANY IDEA OF RECONSTRUCTING THE CENTER-LEFT.

4. COMMENT: THIS MOMENTOUS CENTRAL COMMITTEE ENDED BY MAKING DRAMATIC CHANGE IN PSI'S LEADERSHIP, BUT KEEPING IT FORMALLY TIED FAST TO POLITICAL LINE IT HAS CONSISTENTLY DEVELOPED SINCE JULY 1975. THE REAL CHANGE, IF ANY, IN THE PSI'S STANCE WILL ONLY BECOME EVIDENT AS PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI PURSUES HIS ATTEMPT TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. CRAXI WENT ALMOST DIRECTLY FROM THE MEETING WHICH ELECTED HIM TO MEET ANDREOTTI IN THE FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING BETWEEN ANDREOTTI AND THE PSI'S DELEGATION. VOLPE
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